

# TOWN *of* MIDDLEFIELD, CONNECTICUT



Office of the First Selectman

## Testimony to Appropriations Committee Connecticut State Assembly February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Concerning H.B. No. 7027 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FRO THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019, as it relates to the State Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP).

The Town of Middlefield is a participant in the Resident State Trooper program. We have two Resident State Troopers. The Town restructured our policing two years ago from having a Resident Trooper and two constables to having just Resident Troopers. My Town is very satisfied with the public safety service and professionalism that the Troopers provide. We would be at a loss if we had to eliminate a Trooper because of cost considerations.

While our Resident Troopers serve our Town, they are at the call of the State Police in times of emergencies that are outside of our community. My Town shares a regional school district with the Town of Durham. Troopers from both of our communities are engaged with school related matters regardless of the location of the school building. For this our Towns have no borders.

The Resident Trooper Program is a lifeline for a Town like Middlefield that lacks the resources to adequately fund, staff, equip and train a police department. The partnership with the state has been mutually beneficial as the presence of Resident Troopers in my community reduces the burden on the State Police. As the cost of Resident Troopers on the State Police roster are mostly paid for by participating Towns, the question I put to you is: If all Towns walked away from the Resident Trooper program is the State in a position to assume those costs? Given from what I have heard from our Governor, the State is in no financial position to assume that cost.

**Edward P. Bailey, First Selectman**  
**Town of Middlefield**

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